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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Congressional Affairs

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TO: Ms. Ellie Vogtman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate

Enclosed is the information you requested.

[Redacted Signature]

Chief, Senate Branch

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IAEA/USSR Nuclear Agreements

The Soviet Union concluded an agreement with the IAEA on 21 February 1985 to open selected civilian nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards inspections. Under this agreement, the Soviets have submitted a list of facilities on which they are willing to accept safeguards to the IAEA which then selected some of these facilities for safeguards application. The Soviet Union submitted a list of 29 nuclear reactors at eight nuclear power stations and four research reactors. The power reactors included 17 pressurized water reactors (VVERs) and 12 graphite-moderated pressure tube reactors (RBMKs), including chernobyl units 1-6. The IAEA chose the (1000 MW) VVER at Novovoronezh and the 8 MW IR-8 in Moscow since they reflected the type of reactor Moscow exports.

The purpose of IAEA safeguards is to verify the non-diversion of safeguarded material and equipment to prohibited purposes. The Agency develops procedures for accounting for the flow of material through a safeguarded facility. It depends principally on design and material accounting information supplied by the inspected state. This is corroborated, however, by independent inspections by the IAEA to verify the accuracy of the design information and the presence of materials listed in inventories. These inspections in no way review the design safety of facilities nor do they comment on safety practices of operators. These areas are outside the review of the purpose of inspectors.